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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Technical Meeting on the International
Year and the International Decade
of the World's Indigenous People
Geneva, 20-22 July 1994
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE

Information received from Governments

ESTONIA

[24 May 1994]
[Original: English]

1. The traditional activities will continue:

(a) The Kinsman Days take place annually in the third week of October. This year, they will focus on the Handi-Mansi-Hungarian-speaking peoples;

(b) Annual meetings of the Committee of Consultations of Fino-Ugric Peoples will be held. In 1994, the meeting will be hosted by Estonia;

(c) Each year in July or August, the Pärnu International Visual Anthropology Festival is held. Films presented at the festival reflect the life and ways of indigenous peoples from various parts of the globe. This year, the festival will take place on 3-7 July and its thematic focus will be "The Family".

2. The Parliament of Estonia has proposed that the Government mark the Decade with a conference to be organized under United Nations auspices. The proposed conference will concentrate on the role of women and the family in aboriginal communities. The Ministry will advise the Centre for Human Rights of the Government's decision on this matter as soon as possible.

HONDURAS

[1 June 1994]
[Original: Spanish]

The Government of Honduras recently set up the Honduran Institute of Indigenous and Peoples' Cultures (IHCAP) in the Ministry of Culture to act as a mediator between national ethnic groups and Government and international agencies, including human rights organizations. Taking part in events such as the preparatory meeting for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is vital for IHCAP because it is thus able to exchange ideas with more experienced organizations, update its policies and contribute to regional discussions on indigenous problems.

PANAMA

[18 May 1994]
[Original: Spanish]

1. After holding the necessary consultations, the Government of Panama will establish the National Committee for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which will be composed of Government agencies, the indigenous leadership and non-governmental organizations.

2. The activities to be carried out from 1995 to 2004 include:

(a) The holding of national indigenous congresses at least once every two years in indigenous communities;

(b) Annual regional meetings of indigenous women;

(c) A national meeting of indigenous women every two years;

(d) A meeting of Panamanian indigenous professionals;

(e) An indigenous cultural meeting in Panama;

(f) An indigenous crafts fair;

(g) Binational meetings of indigenous groups (Colombia-Panama and Costa Rica-Panama).

All these activities will be carried out in accordance with the decisions of the National Committee for the Decade to be set up on the instructions of the President of the Republic.

SPAIN

[18 May 1994]
[Original: Spanish]

1. With regard to the recommendation by the Secretary-General that national and regional consultations should be held in 1994 to prepare for the meeting to be held next July in connection with the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and on the basis of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 48/163 on the International Decade, the Spanish authorities have undertaken activities with a view to establishing a national forum.

2. The participants would be experts in indigenous issues from various academic sectors, representatives of the public administration and the private sector, technical and economic cooperation officials, communications media experts, the competent non-governmental organizations and other possible partners, all of which are being contacted for the establishment of the forum.

3. As far as the establishment of a voluntary fund for the International Decade is concerned, Spain takes note of the Secretary-General's invitation to contribute and will take it into account in preparing the budgets for human rights and international cooperation activities.

4. As the Secretary-General is aware, Spain took an active part in the establishment of the International Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, proposed at the Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, and established at the Madrid Summit in July 1992. Once the Agreement establishing the Fund has been ratified, the Government of Spain will decide on the level of its voluntary financial contributions.

5. At the international level and since, for historical and cultural reasons, Spain considers that its particular field of cooperation in respect of support for indigenous people is located in the Ibero-American countries, the Government has organized various working meetings and seminars on topics relating to the International Decade. For example, a seminar on Amerindian ethnic identity and intercultural dialogue organized at Casa de America in Madrid on 27 and 28 April 1994 was attended by indigenous and non-indigenous Ibero-American experts, Spanish experts and representatives of UNESCO and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.